

Total, ELF invite Iraqis for talks*

NIKOSIA (AP) — French oil companies have invited an Iraqi oil delegation to Paris for talks. In the first such request by a Western country since the end of the Gulf war, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday. The Cyprus-based industry weekly said Iraq had accepted the invitation and would send Taha Hamad, a senior under-secretary at the Ministry of Oil, at the head of a delegation. It said a date for the visit had not been finalized, but that it was expected to take place at the end of February or in early March. The newsletter said the French companies, Total and ELF Aquitaine, had held many meetings in Baghdad since the summer of 1991 concerning the development of the giant Nahr Umr and Majnoon oil fields. It underscored that no agreement could be signed as long as the United Nations sanctions, banning Iraq's exports and trade with Baghdad, remained in force. The newsletter noted that France and the United States differed on conditions that would allow the sanctions to be lifted.

Volume 18 Number 5545

Qadhafi congratulates King Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday evening received a telephone call from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi who congratulated him on the signing of the Yemeni reform and reconciliation agreement in Amman Sunday. Colonel Qadhafi voiced appreciation of the King's role and efforts exerted to bring the Yemeni feuding parties to sign the agreement.

Kuwait says it seeks fugitives

KUWAIT (AP) — Diplomatic missions have been ordered not to renew the passports of three Kuwaiti men, including two royal princes, implicated in a multi-billion-dollar investment scandal, the newspaper Al Qabas reported Monday. The independent daily said missions abroad have been instructed to inform the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry if they hear from any of the three men. Al Qabas provided no attribution for the report. Fuad Jaffar, Sheikh Khaled Nasser Al Sabah and Sheikh Fahad Mohammad Al Sabah, all former officials of the London-based Kuwait Investment Office, vanished after their indictment last year. They have been charged with embezzling public money leading to the collapse of a \$4 billion investment empire in Spain. Kuwait has sought the help of the Interpol to arrest them.

Yemeni captors free three Chinese

SANA (AP) — Three Chinese road-building experts kidnapped more than a week ago by Yemeni tribesmen were released Monday, diplomatic sources said. The sources spoke on condition they not be named, said the three men were unharmed but declined to immediately give more detail. The abduction was the latest in a long series of hostage-taking of foreign workers in Yemen by tribes who want to pressure the authorities to address their grievances. The tribe who took the three Chinese men in broad daylight from the Mareb-Khawlan highway on Feb. 12 were said to be demanding construction of a road through their area.

Frenchman murdered in Algiers

PARIS (R) — Unknown assailants killed a French shopkeeper in central Algiers on Monday, the Algerian state news agency APS said. APS, monitored in Paris, said Joaquin Grau, 52, was attacked in a bookshop by "terrorists" — the term used by Algerian authorities for Muslim fundamentalists — and died in hospital. French radio said Grau was shot several times. His death took to 29 the number of foreigners killed in Algeria's political violence since last September, six of them French (see page 2).

Kuwait: No problem for agency in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — The Tunis office of Kuwait's news agency KUNA is functioning normally after the resolution of its problems with authorities, the Kuwait embassy said on Monday. "KUNA's office is operating normally. There was a misunderstanding which we have amicably resolved with the help of Tunisian authorities," Walid Al Khubeizy, Kuwait's charge d'affaires in Tunis, told Reuters.

"Reports about a closure of KUNA's office were exaggerated," he added.

KUNA Paris bureau chief said last Friday Tunisia had ordered the KUNA correspondent in Tunis to stop working and cut off his telephone, apparently because he quoted a Muslim fundamentalist leader.

Authorities had not officially asked the office to shut.

Tunisia last week ordered the expulsion of the British Broadcasting Corporation's correspondent, accusing him of giving too much publicity to the views of Muslim militants.

Jordan Times

An independent English-language newspaper

عن المؤسسة العربية للدراسات والنشر



AMMAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1994, RAMADAN 12, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Clinton says Serbs heeded NATO call, but warns anew

Europeans want to end sieges throughout Bosnia

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— U.S. President Bill Clinton said Monday that Bosnian Serbs were in "effective compliance" with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) demand to withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo but said any violation would bring a "certain and swift" response from the U.S. and NATO.

Speaking to reporters in a hastily arranged news conference at the White House briefing room, Mr. Clinton tried to capitalize on his first limited foreign policy success in the troubled region. He commanded U.S. troops, NATO allies, the U.N. and Russia, which urged the Serbs to heed the ultimatum. Mr. Clinton made the remarks after meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary William Perry and National Security Adviser Tony Lake.

In other Bosnia-related developments:

— U.N. peacekeepers were taking control of the last Serb guns around Sarajevo as a growing chorus of voices called for NATO's air strike ultimatum aimed at ending shelling of the besieged Bosnian capital to order NATO bombings if peacekeepers are under attack.

— European governments, capitalizing on their first success in the Bosnia conflict after two years of impotence, sought to extend NATO's ultimatum to relieve sieges elsewhere in Bosnia and advance peace talks.

— The commander of U.N. troops in former Yugoslavia, General Jean Cot, said he wanted to use the demilitarization in Sarajevo as a model and extend it to other Bosnia trouble spots.

— Turkey approved of the delay in air strikes in Bosnia but said NATO should hold the same resolve to break Serb sieges in other Muslim regions.

— France urged the international community to seize the opportunity created by the NATO ultimatum to press for a wider peace in Bosnia. President Francois Mitterrand was expected to call for a new U.N. Security Council debate.

— General Sir Michael Rose, commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, said there was

new hope in the eyes of the republic's war-weary people after the Serb gunners pulled back. A U.N. officer said Gen. Rose wanted to use the same strategy elsewhere to consolidate the peace.

— The commander of U.N. troops in former Yugoslavia, General Jean Cot, said he wanted to use the demilitarization in Sarajevo as a model and extend it to other Bosnia trouble spots.

— Turkey approved of the delay in air strikes in Bosnia but said NATO should hold the same resolve to break Serb sieges in other Muslim regions.

— Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said more than half of his army's heavy weapons had been withdrawn from Sarajevo while the rest were under United Nations control.

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(Continued on page 5)

PLO, Israel resume self-rule negotiations

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) started more talks in Cairo on Monday to complete a detailed agreement on Palestinian self-rule which they have been working on since last October.

Palestinian sources said a deal on the transfer of civilian authority from Israel to the PLO in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho was at hand and could be sealed soon.

On Security arrangements — a more thorny issue — both sides were due to draw up final drafts on all the details that would follow Israel's withdrawal from the two self-rule areas.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said on Monday the talks in Cairo should bring agreement on how big a Palestinian police force should be and what weapons it should have.

PLO sources said Israel was talking about a 6,000-strong air, sea and land force while the Palestinians demand 10,000.

Israel insists Palestinian police must not carry mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, mortars or Katyusha rockets and that their weapons must be confined to Kalashnikovs, piste-

tols and batons at the first stage.

The negotiators were also expected to set a timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, dismantling its military installations and the deployment of the Palestinian police in the future autonomous area.

Israel and the PLO missed the deadline for Israel to start pulling out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho more than two months ago. The Palestinians now say they hope to have a deal by the end of Ramadan.

Dr. Shaath said the negotiators also had to go into further details on security zones around the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, where Israeli forces will retain some powers.

A separate group, led by Jamil Al Tarif for the PLO and Gadi Zohar for Israel, is talking about the transfer of civilian authority to the Palestinians, especially the allocation of radio and television frequencies and archaeological matters.

In a separate statement, the Defence Ministry said the clashes "almost killed the joy of the Yemeni nation" following the signing of the reconciliation pact.

Insisting on anonymity, the oil sources said about 150

Army clash mars Yemen agreement

SANA (Agencies) — Five people reportedly were killed in a clash Monday between northern and southern Yemeni forces, threatening to undermine a day-old reconciliation accord between two leaders.

Israel and the PLO missed the deadline for Israel to start pulling out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho more than two months ago. The Palestinians now say they hope to have a deal by the end of Ramadan.

Oil industry sources in Sanaa said the clash occurred in Abyan, 320 kilometres south of the Yemeni capital. Hours after the reports surfaced, it was unclear if the fighting was continuing.

The cabinet, meeting in emergency session, assigned the minister of defence and the army chief of staff to take urgent measures to stop the clash "and swiftly investigate and punish those who triggered it."

In a separate statement, the Defence Ministry said the clashes "almost killed the joy of the Yemeni nation" following the signing of the reconciliation pact.

Among the reforms listed in the reconciliation charter is a requirement for all army units

(Continued on page 5)

Syria: No secret talks with Israel

do so. It also tried to sabotage the strong Syrian-Lebanese ties but the attempt was doomed to failure," the official said.

He said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and his Lebanese counterpart Elias Hrawi had taken a unified stand at a meeting on Sunday on the peace talks and on concern about a possible Israeli strike against guerrillas in South Lebanon.

Syria and Israel, who have held 11 rounds of talks during the last two years without tangible progress, resumed negotiations in Washington on Jan. 24 after a four-month break.

The resumption followed a meeting between Mr. Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva on Jan. 24 in which Mr. Assad said he was ready to have normal ties with Israel as part of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"(The call aims at) giving no chance for the co-sponsors... especially the United States which is exerting substantial efforts by Syria and other countries worldwide have had limited effectiveness.

Mr. Harba, whose country is under pressure from the United States to curb drug trafficking, expressed determination to stamp out the illicit trade.

responded positively to Mr. Assad's statement and accused it of "placing sticks in the wheel of this peace process."

He described Israel's proposal for holding a referendum on the fate of the Golan Heights as an obstacle to peace.

"Amongst the obstacles that Israel created was the formula of referendum as regards withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a new flimsy pretext to shirk the exigencies of peace," Mr. Harba said.

Israel's demand for secret talks was aimed at avoiding U.S. intervention to push the process forward, Mr. Harba added.

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Mr. Harba, whose country is under pressure from the United States to curb drug trafficking, expressed determination to stamp out the illicit trade.

Since 1976, the Syrian army has controlled east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, one of the main hashish growing and cocaine-processing areas in the Middle East.

Recently, the Syrians have publicised efforts to stamp out the trade. Last year, they escorted reporters to view the destruction of hashish fields in the Bekaa.

"It is imperative to put an end to the illicit growing of narcotic plants," Mr. Harba told the meeting, organised by the U.N. drug-control programme in Damascus.

Mr. Harba said Syria would use the death penalty and other stern measures to deal with drug dealers, but he conceded that drug-control measures by Syria and other countries worldwide have had limited effectiveness.

"We are not doing any injustice to anyone by admitting that the efforts exerted until now have been futile and were ineffective in uprooting this evil phenomenon," he told the conference.

Peres said reinforcements would be deployed in the occupied territories, but he ruled out a tightening of restrictions imposed since last March to prevent Palestinians from entering Israel.

Israeli troops shot and wounded five Palestinians during clashes on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on Sunday.

The settlers shouted slogans demanding that Israel hold on to the occupied territories.

"If Israel cannot move about safely we will not let Arab cars use the roads," settlers' spokesman Shai Bazak said.

Troops did not intervene and the demonstrators dispersed peacefully.

The protests followed the killing of an Israeli woman near the West Bank settlement of Ariel on Friday night. And a Palestinian stabbed a Jewish carpenter in the abdomen on Sunday, lightly wounding him.

Talks between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel are being held in Cairo where Palestinian sources said a deal on the transfer of civilian authority from Israel to the PLO in the Gaza Strip and Jericho was at hand and could be sealed soon.

Mr. Harba, whose country is under pressure from the United States to curb drug trafficking, expressed determination to stamp out the illicit trade.

Hamas leader's health deteriorates

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The health of the jailed leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has deteriorated to the point where his life is in danger, his lawyer said on Monday. Abdul Malek Al Dalamishchi, who visited Ahmed Yassin at a jail near the Israeli town of Netanya on Friday, said doctors postponed a vital operation on the ailing cleric because he was too weak to stand it. "For two months he was in the prison hospital waiting for an operation on his digestive system. But on February 8th he returned to his cell because doctors decided not to perform the operation," Mr. Dalamishchi told Reuters. "It is not an exaggeration to say his life is under threat," he said. A spokesman for the Israeli prison authority said Sheikh Yassin had spent some weeks in a prison hospital for which he called a routine checkup. "He is in the same condition as before and there is no deterioration," the spokesman said. Sheikh Yassin, the 58-year-old founder of Hamas, is serving a 15-year jail term for ordering the killing of suspected Palestinian collaborators with Israel.



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday sees off Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh (Petra)

Yemeni leaders leave for home paying tribute to Jordan's role

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh and other Yemeni leaders Monday left for home after signing a reform and reconciliation agreement in Amman Sunday.

Mr. Saleh was seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Taher Al Masri, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qassem, the King's advisor Khalid Al Karaki, and other senior officials.

"We had consultations on bilateral issues of concern to Yemen and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as well as issues of concern to our Arab and Islamic nations," he said.

"If at the present we have overcome the challenges of the Yemen crisis, we have ahead of us as Arabs greater challenges that we have to withstand seriously and sincerely," he added.

He said the only way for Arabs and Muslims to succeed in overcoming problems facing them as to end rifts among them and give priority to higher national interests.

All these issues, he said, were on focus in the Jordanian-Yemen talks and added that he was looking forward to discuss these issues with other Arab countries.

The Yemeni president reiterated his thanks for King Hussein and the Jordanian government for their efforts to close the gaps between Yemeni leaders and for the hospitality they were accorded in Am-

man.

Vice-President Beidh was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister and senior officials.

Following his departure, Mr. Beidh sent a cable to King Hussein thanking him for the hospitality accorded to him and to the Yemeni leadership.

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The meeting, he said, reflects the confidence King Hussein enjoys in Yemen.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan described the signing of the reconciliation and reform agreement in Amman as a historic event.

Mr. Hassan said the agreement was a cause of joy for the Jordanian leadership and people and for the Arab Nation as a whole.

He said the event affirms that Amman will always remain in the lead of Arab countries calling for unifying Arab ranks and mending fences.

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Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi said Monday that his country considers the signing of the Yemeni agreement as a blessed step and expressed hope that the Yemenis will

(Continued

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1994

Iraq seeks return of its planes from Iran

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper said on Monday that Iraq sought to persuade Iran to return planes flown there secretly before and during the 1991 Gulf war.

The English-language Tehran Times quoted informed sources as saying that "Baghdad's main objective in the current talks is to secure the speedy return of its fighter planes held in Iran."

Iraq has often urged Iran to return the planes.

It said in 1991 that a total of 148 planes — 33 civilian and 115 military — were moved to Iran. Iran said only 22 Iraqi planes landed and it would not give them back without the approval of the U.N. Security Council.

"The Iraqi regime must realise that while it continues to arm and train anti-Iranian terrorists on its soil bordering the Islamic republic, it would be chidish to believe that Iran will return the planes which can easily end up in the hands of those same terrorists to be used against its citizens," the daily said.

Iraq condemned Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait but remained neutral in the 1991 Gulf war when a U.S.-led multinational force drove Iraqi troops from the emirate.

Iran and Iraq, regional rivals

who fought a bitter war from 1980-1988, said after talks in Tehran last week that they should work to improve relations.

The talks brought together Saad Abdul Majeed Al Faisali, under-secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Mr. Faisali also discussed the fate of remaining prisoners from the Iran-Iraq war. Iran says it has documents on about 5,000 Iranian prisoners in Iraq. Baghdad denies holding any.

Iran is home to Iraq's exiled Shi'ite opposition movement, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), whose guerrillas attack targets in southern Iraq.

The Iranian opposition Mujahedeen-e-Khalq group has military camps in Iraq.

"Tehran's reluctance to expand bilateral relations with Baghdad stems from the fact that Iraq simultaneously speaks from both corners of its mouth," the Tehran Times said.

"From one corner comes statements of reconciliation, while the other corner tries to convince the West that another Western investment in Baghdad's war machine is needed to bring Iran's Islamic revolution under control and to secure Western interests," it added.

Iran team in Geneva to refute U.N. report

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said on Monday it had sent a judiciary delegation to Geneva to refute allegations made in a report by a U.N. investigator on human rights violations.

Iran's judicial chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said the allegations in the report were "lies" and a "political tool" against the Islamic republic.

"Presently, the ayatollah said, an Iranian judiciary delegation is in Geneva to spell out the facts on the issues mentioned in the report and the realities of the Islamic republic system," the official Iranian news agency IRNA said.

Mr. Yazdi denied Iran was holding any prisoners "for expressing their ideas."

In a report to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl of El Salvador said last week there were nearly 20,000 political prisoners in Iran and freedom of expression there was constantly under attack.

Mr. Pohl, whose 60-page report was the latest in a series he has produced for the commission criticising Iran's human rights stance since 1986, also recorded what he said were many cases of persecution of religious minorities and women.

The report will come up for adoption by the commission in early March.

The investigator, who has not been allowed into Iran for many months, said he based his findings on both official and unofficial accounts of events in Iran and on foreign court decisions in the cases of murders of Iranian exiles.

The report noted rejection by Iran of most of the charges recorded by Mr. Pohl, and assertions by Tehran that he had little knowledge of Islamic law.

"Touching on Iran's alleged involvement in the assassination of its opposition forces abroad, Yazdi said that the global arrogance has always made efforts to attribute the

revolutionary movements and popular uprisings in other countries to the Islamic Republic of Iran," IRNA added.

Ayatollah Yazdi said Iran did not issue Mr. Pohl with a visa due to his "insincerity and his infringing of his duties."

He said Iran has repeatedly said it was willing to receive delegates of international organisations "who intend to fulfil their tasks honestly."

Iran on Sunday said it was holding a total of 89,500 prisoners and all were well-treated.

Assadollah Lajevardi, head of Iran's prisons, said five per cent of the prisoners were women, 53 per cent drug addicts or traffickers and the rest convicted of other crimes.

He said prisoners were allowed weekly visits by their families and religious minority inmates were allowed access to their clergymen.

Ayatollah Yazdi defended the current laws in Iran, including the death penalty, saying "the punishment already exists in most countries."

However, he said Iran was planning to overhaul its judiciary and he expected parliament to debate the issue shortly.

The U.N. report also pressed the authorities to end harassment of the media and allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to return to Iran.

The authorities expelled ICRC representatives in March 1992, accusing them of overstepping their mandate.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee does not reveal the names of candidates, but those making the nominations often announce their choice. Among known nominees are Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who last September signed a historic peace accord in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat were nominated by European Council President Miguel

angel Martinez and several German parliamentarians.

The six-member committee meets Tuesday for its first closed session, starting the process leading to the announcement in mid-October. The post-mark deadline for nominations was Feb. 1.

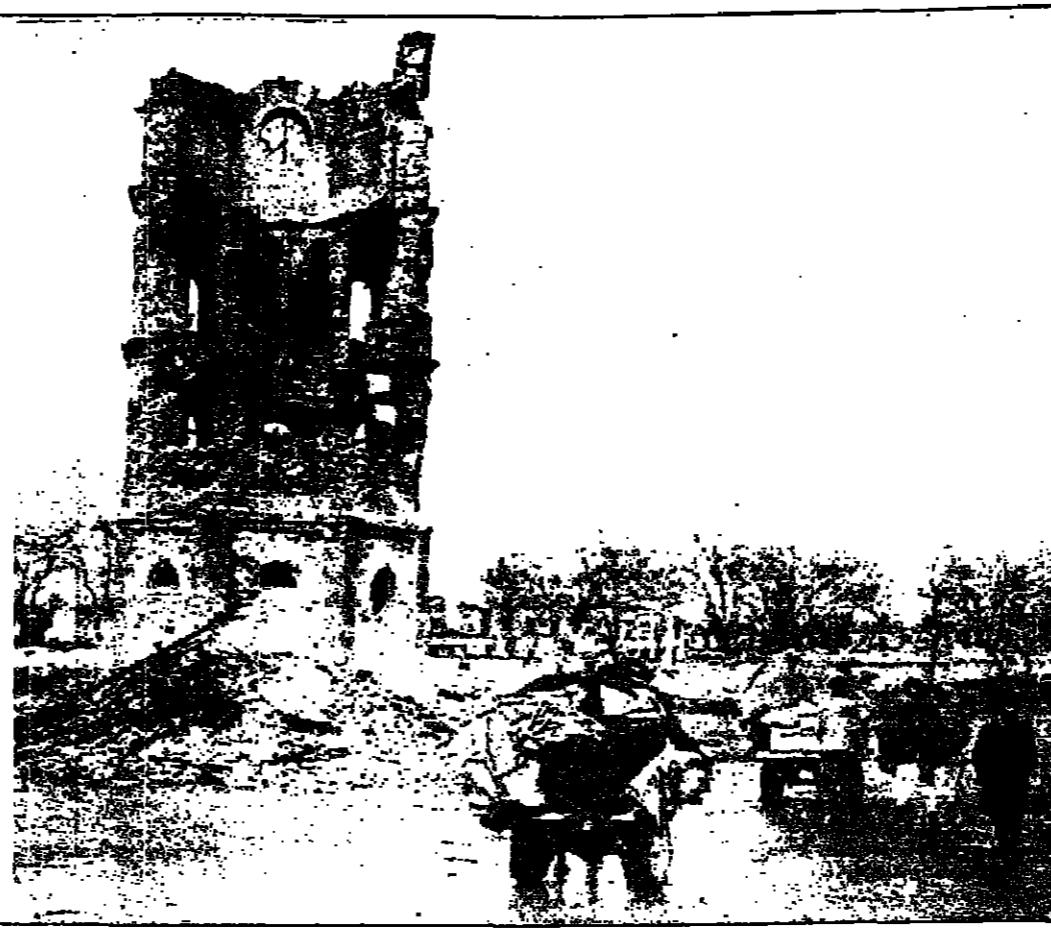
Shortly before his death Jan. 13, Norway's late Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, who brokered the Israel-PLO peace accord, was nominated by German Parliamentarian Johannes Gerster of the Christian Democrats.

Mr. Holst can be ruled out, since the statutes of the Nobel committee state that the peace prize cannot be awarded posthumously. However, a shared Arafat-Rabin prize would reflect Mr. Holst's contribution.

Brazilian President Itamar Franco nominated sociologist Herbert de Souza for his efforts among Brazil's poor, the Norwegian news agency NTB said.

The foreign ministry also rejected the U.N. report on Saturday, calling it "biased, politically-motivated and influenced by the enemies of the Islamic republic."

Homeless in Kabul.



60-year-old woman gives birth in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — A 60-year-old European woman who lied about her age to get an implant of donated eggs has delivered a healthy girl at an Israeli hospital, her doctor said Monday.

The woman, who had already passed menopause and could not conceive naturally, became one of the oldest on record to give birth. Her husband is 68.

The woman demanded that her identity be kept secret.

The Israeli doctor, Dr. Shlomo Mashiach, said he might not have carried out the procedure if he had known his patient's real age. "One has to get an age limit. I think age 50 is enough," Dr. Mashiach told the Associated Press.

The case of a 50-year-old British woman who delivered twins in international ethics debate and prompted some countries to consider legislation that would restrict such treatment.

Dr. Mashiach said he treated 250 older women from Israel and abroad in his egg donation programme last year. He said many of the foreigners were Jews who wanted to be sure the donor was Jewish.

He said his patient was the oldest woman he knew of to have given birth.

Violence sweeps Algeria as gas stations strike

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Violence blazed on a two-year-old insurgency left 30 more reported dead, and traffic jams plagued the capital Sunday as gas station operators prepared to strike.

Security forces said they killed 21 armed militants across Algeria last week, including six in the western area of Mascara.

The forces said among seven civilians killed was a 94-year-old woman who was killed in her home west of Algiers on Friday. They confirmed news reports that a 50-year-old woman and her 25-year-old daughter were slain Wednesday night in the Algiers neighbourhood of Bourouba.

Six members of a "terrorist group" with sawed-off hunting rifles killed the two in front of the father, then made off with jewellery and money, the forces said.

Pensioner Boudjel Keltoum was killed at her home near Sidi Bel Abbes in west Algeria by unknown attackers, officials said.

Mohammad Tahar, 53, a veteran of the war of independence from France and vice president of a religious association, was killed Wednesday evening in Setif, eastern Algeria, the security forces said.

In a separate report security officials said that 11 armed

fundamentalists were killed Wednesday in different clashes with government forces.

Four were killed in Sidi Kada, near the western region of Mascara, and three in Boudouaou, to the east of Algiers. Another two were killed in the east, at M'sila and Constantine, they added.

Thirty-six activists were arrested the same day in different parts of the country, charged mainly with assisting armed groups.

A total of 62 armed fundamentalists have been killed by government forces since the start of February, according to an unofficial tally, while Islamic groups are alleged to have killed 14 security force people and 12 civilians.

Several public buildings were set on fire on Wednesday in Tefessour, in the western region of Sidi Bel Abbes, according to security sources.

On the same day, nine buses belonging to a public company were set on fire in Reliziane by armed men, while a college was sacked in Ain Serroun, near Chlef, they said.

Algerian press reported a magistrate and a policeman were also killed, the first in an apartment building in the western port of Oran, the second in Constantine.

Arafat, Rabin among peace prize candidates

OSLO (AP) — The countdown to the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize has started. This year the awards committee in Oslo received 117 nominations.

"There were many nominations towards the end, and in all the total was close to last year's 120 nominations," Arne Storheim, of the Nobel Institute.

The nominations can be divided into three categories: 67 individuals, 21 nominations of two or three individuals and 29 organisations.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee does not reveal the names of candidates, but those making the nominations often announce their choice. Among known nominees are Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who last September signed a historic peace accord in Washington, D.C.

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Vaclav Havel has been nominated for several years in a row. Norwegian legislators nominated writer and human rights campaigner Adam Demajki, 58, leader of the human rights council in Kosovo, the troubled southern Serbian province with a predominant Albanian ethnic population.

Maha Ghosnada, a Buddhist monk who campaigned for peace during Cambodia's civil war, was nominated by U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell.

Mr. Pell had nominated the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who won the 1989 peace prize.

Among the organisations known to be nominated are the international Red Cross, the Scouting Movement and the Salvation Army.

The U.S. Quaker movement, Friends Service Committee, nominated Thai activist Sulak Sivaraksa, who for more than 30 years has spoken out for democracy and nonviolence.

The awards committee members are appointed by the Norwegian parliament.

The Nobel Foundation has not announced the value of the 1994 prize. Last year it was worth 6.7 million Swedish Kronor (\$839,000) when it went to South African President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress President Nelson Mandela.

The peace prize is always presented in Oslo on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, a Swede who invented dynamite and endowed the prize in his 1895 will.

The Nobel prizes in literature, economics, physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine are awarded in Stockholm, Sweden.

Peace prize nominations are accepted mainly from members of national legislatures, some university professors, awards committee members, former laureates and a few organisations.

The awards committee members are appointed by the Norwegian parliament.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Group regrets Indonesian visit to Israel

JAKARTA (AFP) — An Indonesian Muslim youth organisation has expressed deep regret over a visit by four Indonesian journalists to Israel. The Mohammadiyah Youth Movement said in a statement obtained Monday that it "deeply regrets" the visit of senior journalists to Israel, with which Indonesia does not have diplomatic relations. It described the visit as "a political victory for Israel" and said Indonesian public figures should not accept such invitations. Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said last week that the government had not approved the visit and pointed out that "our immigration rules clearly forbid people from travelling there." Four journalists — from the Republika and Media Indonesia dailies, and Indonesian Business Weekly and Eseksekutif magazine — left Jakarta on Feb. 8 for Cairo and then went on to Tel Aviv. They were officially invited by the Israeli chamber of commerce. But a media Indonesia spokesman said the journalists had been in the hands of Israeli foreign ministry officials since their arrival. Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, is a staunch supporter of the Palestinians and the Arabs. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made a brief stop in Jakarta in October and held talks with President Suharto in the latter's capacity as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement to brief him on developments in the Middle East peace process. Indonesia said afterwards it was not considering establishing diplomatic ties with Israel.

Jewish agency appoints Dinitz replacement

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Quasi-governmental Jewish Agency appointed a temporary chairman Sunday to replace Simcha Dinitz who has been charged with fraud. The agency, which processes immigrants and coordinates fundraising for Israel, named Israeli-born Yehiel Leket, 52, as Mr. Dinitz's replacement until elections in June. Mr. Leket, like Mr. Dinitz, belongs to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party. A former parliament member, Mr. Leket has built his career in the agency. He headed its youth immigration department, and previously chaired the settlement division of the World Zionist Organisation, an agency subsidiary for overseas Jewry. His appointment was approved by the agency's board of governors in consultation with Mr. Rabin. The agency's approximately \$500 million annual budget is raised mostly from Jewish communities abroad. The organisation was founded as the governing body of the Jewish state in the making during British rule in mandatory Palestine. Since Israel achieved statehood in 1948, the agency has been a fundraising arm helping also in settlement building and absorbing immigrants. Mr. Dinitz, a former Israeli ambassador to Washington, was charged on Feb. 14 of spending \$22,000 on a company credit card, according to Israeli media reports. He announced the same day he was taking a leave of absence pending trial.

Iran, Pakistan start navy exercises

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Pakistan began joint naval exercises Sunday which will continue for the next two weeks, the Iranian newspaper Kayhan said. In a report carried by the Iranian news agency IRNA, the newspaper quoted an Iranian armed forces official as saying the joint naval manoeuvres were launched near Karachi, Pakistan's main seaport. IRNA said the newspaper added the manoeuvres were important because Iran's navy "would get a chance to put its capabilities in various fields on display." It did not mention what type of exercises they would carry out. Both countries have submarine.

Two children killed by Egyptian shell blast

CAIRO (AP) — Two children were killed when a shell, believed left from a past war with Israel, blew up in the northern Sinai, the state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Monday. MENA gave no details on how the children found the shell or what they were doing with it when it detonated late Sunday. It quoted an unnamed security source as saying the area had been a battlefield. The incident occurred near the town of Bir Al Abd, which is about 80 kilometres east of Port Said, MENA said. There have been a number of similar incidents in old war zones in the Sinai and along the Suez Canal. Most of the victims are children playing with found objects of workers handling scrap metal. The Sinai Middle East wars.

Palestinian hurt in fight with Egyptians

NICOSIA (R) — A Palestinian student was stabbed in the chest in the Cypriot capital Nicosia during a dispute over girls between four Palestinians and five Egyptians, police said on Monday. Akram Mohammad, 26, a Jordanian passport holder, was being treated for a minor stab wound in a Nicosia hospital after the Saturday night incident, they added.

Lebanon invites tenders for Beirut rebuilding

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon invited on Monday contractors to offer tenders for a \$550 million plan to rebuild the infrastructure of Beirut's war-ravaged centre. The rehabilitation plan is the first practical step in a project to rebuild the capital's downtown area. The Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR) made the announcement in an advertisement in Beirut newspapers in which it said the contractors, who must be Lebanese, should restore roads, sewerage, water pipes, the electricity grid and the telephone networks. The CDR said tenders should be offered between Feb. 28 and May 13. Sources at Solidere, the \$1.82 billion private company that will rebuild the centre, said work on the infrastructure would start later this year at a cost of \$550 million. It was expected to be finished in 1999, they said. The sources said Solidere would initially pay for the infrastructure but it expected the government to pay it back, either with cash or property. Under the law that set up Solidere, the government should rehabilitate the infrastructure while the company would rebuild the area.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)		RIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN	
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Home News

Majali issues budget law guidelines

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday issued an 18-point circular to government departments concerning the implementation of the 1994 Budget Law.

The circular contained guidelines on handling financial matters.

The instructions called on the departments to refrain

from overspending by limiting expenses to the earmarked allocations.

It also urged the department to coordinate revenue and expenditure matters with the General Budget Department, refrain from budgetary item transfers, announce tenders for projects in the first rather than the last quarter of the year, report to the finance ministry.



FORESTING A NAMESAKE: Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday plants a tree at the Queen Noor Forest on Yajouz Road during a ceremony organised by the Royal Scientific

NMC ensembled to take to stage

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Following their very successful concert in Amman a few weeks ago, the Chamber Music Ensemble of the National Music Conservatory (NMC) — Noor Al Hussein Foundation, is back on stage tonight at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) for another performance that is guaranteed to be at least as enthralling as the previous one.

Armenakian on flute, Ali Shawki on clarinet, Mohammad Ali Abbas on violin and viola, Ali Moussa on cello and Mohammed Othman on piano will play at the RCC at 8:30 p.m.

The quintet will present a

suite for cello and piano by G.F. Telemann, in three movements, the piano solo Valtier d'Obermann by F. Liszt, trio for cello, piano and violin by J. Haydn, the first movement of Kramer's clarinet concerto, Elegie by Gabriel Fauré (seldom played in Jordan), the first movement of a flute concerto by W.A. Mozart, and as the finale, quite appropriately, two Hungarian dances by J. Brahms.

The NMC ensemble has already demonstrated its musical qualities that put forward not only their virtuosity and technique, but also their musicality. Their excellent interpretation of Bach's suite in B minor in the last concert was a true masterpiece.

The five Iraqi musicians all are staff members of the NMC and explained to the Jordan Times how hard it was for them to find a comfortable balance between teaching at the conservatory and practising for their own performances.

They also expressed the wish to see more Jordanian performers present on stage.

According to concert master Mohammad Ali Abbas "... it would at least stimulate us by creating a more competitive situation... it would also better serve Jordan..."

The five musicians hope to see full size symphony orchestras perform more often in Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abbadi heads for talks in Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi Sunday left for Saudi Arabia on a several-day visit for talks with his Saudi counterpart on arrangements for the current pilgrimage season, due to start in May. Dr. Abbadi is accompanied by Director of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs pilgrimage Department Mohammad Obeidat and several officials.

House panel reviews sales tax

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Financial Committee Monday began discussions of the sales tax law which was referred to it by the House last week. The committee was briefed by Finance Minister Sami Gammoh and Director General of the Customs Department Mohammad Al Jamal on the reasons for issuing and enacting the law. In its next sessions, the committee will meet with representatives of the industrial and commercial sectors to hear their views on the draft law. In 1992 the greens had 11

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery.
- * Plastic art exhibition by artist Khalil Al Kofahi at the Yarmouk University.
- * Art exhibition by Iraqi artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (8:30 p.m.-midnight).
- * Computer exhibition at the Marriott Hotel.
- * Photo exhibition by artist Latif Yousef at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- * Book exhibition at the Jordan University for Women.
- * Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- * Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (Tel. 728902).
- * Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. 543251/2)
- * Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

DRAMA

- * Drama in Arabic entitled "Hamlet Crucified Again" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

ABC WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- * ABC weekly news highlights and the MacNeil Lehrer news hour at the American Centre 2:30 p.m.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

- * Musical performance by the National Institute of Music band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

SEMINAR AND LECTURE

- * Seminar entitled "Information and Islam" with the participation of Mr. Ahmad Al Anani and Mr. Ziyad Abu Ghaniem at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

- * Lecture entitled "The Future of Yemeni Unity After The Amman Accord" by Mr. Shaker Al Johari at the Arab Club for Culture and Art in Dahiya Al Rasheed at 8:00 p.m.

CHARITY BAZAAR

- * Charity bazaar at the International Exhibit Centre (3:00 p.m.-midnight).

Jordan, U.S. sign \$15m loan agreement to buy wheat

AMMAN (J.T.) — A loan agreement for \$15 million to help Jordan purchase about 100,000 metric tonnes of wheat from private U.S. sources was signed today by Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh and Douglas Keene, the U.S. charge d'affaires ad interim in Jordan.

The soft financial loan is being provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the provisions of Public Law 480 (P.L. 480).

It is being extended at the soft interest rate of 2 per cent for the first seven years and at 3 per cent thereafter, according to a U.S. embassy statement.

Repayment will begin following a grace period of seven years in 24 annual installments.

The \$15 million loan will be deposited in an interest-bearing account in the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), and the

income generated will be spent on agricultural development projects mutually agreed upon by the government of Jordan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Speaking after the signing ceremony held at the Finance Ministry, Mr. Gammoh called on Jordanians opposing Jordan's borrowing to instead work towards ensuring that the Kingdom becomes self-reliant.

He said Jordan hopes to stop being dependent on others and ensure sufficient basic consumer commodities for its needs, noting that the loan was part of Washington's support for the country's fiscal budget.

For his part, Mr. Keene praised the existing cooperation between Jordan and the United States in all fields, saying that the new agreement represented part of this cooperation and a move to further bolster bilateral relations.

Finance Minister Sami Gammoh (second from right) and U.S. Charge d'Affaires ad interim Douglas Keane Monday sign a \$15 million loan agreement to help Jordan buy U.S. Wheat (Petra photo)



Engineers to elect leadership from uneven candidate blocs

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A lopsided race for the leadership of the Jordan Engineering Association (JEA) has pitted a weakend liberal/left-wing bloc against a stronger traditionalist/Islamic bloc in what promises to be one of the most politically telling elections in several years.

Known as the green and white blocs respectively, the two groups are led by former Lower House of Parliament deputy and former association President Laith Shbeilat and traditionalist/conservative incumbent president Husni Abu Ghaida.

The green bloc, which lost its control of the association to the whites in March 1992 after dominating the association for nearly three decades, has only five candidates running on its ticket. The bloc, which has no official candidate for association president, is backing Laith Shbeilat for the post.

The increasingly powerful white bloc is fielding nine candidates, one for each of the available posts on the executive committee.

In primary elections for the individual engineering disciplines last November the white bloc candidates defeated their green counterparts by a margin of 6 to 1, thus reducing the number of greens eligible to run in next Friday's elections.

The green bloc lost its official candidate for the association presidency, Musa Ma'aitah, when he withdrew his candidacy in favour of independent candidate Laith Shbeilat earlier this month.

The 1992 defeat of the greens for the leadership of the association was believed to be caused by the split in the leadership of the group. In 1992 the greens had 11



Laith Shbeilat



Husni Abu Ghaida

candidates for the presidency of the association. The sole white candidate, Husni Abu Ghaida won the race.

As an independent Islamist, Shbeilat, a former two-time association president, declined to head the green list, which is a nationalist, pan-Arab and leftist grouping, but is considered the green candidate nevertheless.

"We are however, supporting Mr. Shbeilat in his candidacy," Mr. Ma'aitah told the Jordan Times Monday.

Many observers of the race believe that Mr. Shbeilat will draw many Islamist votes that would otherwise have gone to the whites.

The green list is, as it has always been, the opposition to the status quo, i.e. anti-peace process, anti-IMF accords etc., a veteran green supporter told the Jordan Times.

"Laith Shbeilat represents our views and thus we are all supporting him."

Many observers inside the association believe that Mr. Shbeilat's charismatic appeal and unbudging political views will draw numerous votes from the more pro-establishment white list, although it contains Islamists.

The white list candidates are Husni Abu Ghaida for president, Azam Huneidi for vice-president, Bashir Gajbir and Mohammad Abu Affifi for the two civil engineering seats, Abdul Farah Al Khayat for the electrical seat, Ahmad Keilani, for the mechanical seat, Mohammad Abu Taba for the mining seat, Jamal Abu Salem for the chemical seat and Mohammad Akram Tell for the architecture seat.

AFM decides to raise brokerage firm capital

AMMAN (J.T.) — Brokerage

putting together draft regulations and legislation which would govern the operations of market-maker companies and introduce new investment instruments and, thus increase competition and help avoid sharp price fluctuations.

The statement noted that the new regulations were in line with the government's policies aimed at boosting economic growth through encouraging people to make investment and also in line with the provisions of the economic restructuring programme.

Brokerages which must increase their capital should come up with half of the additional amount in the first 12 months, noted the statement.

Also, each brokerage should provide a JD 150,000 guarantee to the AFM as of July 1, 1994 in order to protect the rights of customers dealing with securities, said the statement.

Draft laws

The committee said it was

U.S. auditors end check on UNRWA services

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-

person delegation from the inspector general's office at the U.S. State Department today (Tuesday) conclude a six-day visit to Jordan and leave for the occupied West Bank.

Max Aguilar and Michael Capozzi who have been inspecting services to Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, toured refugee camps and met with officials in three countries which host refugees.

According to an official at

VACANT POST FOR NATIONAL COORDINATOR IN JORDAN (JORDANIAN) FOR U.N. PROGRAMME ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The GEF NGO Small-Grants Programme is a pilot programme which aims at providing support for small-scale activities that address global environment programme, i.e. reduce global warming, conserve biological diversity, protect international waters and reduce depletion of the ozone layer. Activities that combat desertification, land degradation and deforestation are also included. The principal objective of the programme is to identify and demonstrate community-based approaches and strategies that could reduce threats to the global environment if replicated successfully over time.

Required Qualifications:

The national coordinator for the above programme should be Jordanian. He/she should have a solid understanding of environmental problems within the country and of their implications for the global environment. He/she should have:

- ten or more years experience in the environment field and/or experience with development programmes that have conserved the environment;
- in-depth knowledge of the local NGO community and of relevant local scientific and technical resources;
- experience with small-grant (micro-enterprise) programmes;
- proven management and administrative skills; and
- experience in preparing such written materials as project summaries and assessments, programme implementation reports, evaluations and analysis.

The selected candidate will be recruited under Special Service Agreement for one year duration, as of April 1, 1994, for a monthly salary of around JD 550.

For those interested, please send your C.V. to UNDP office P.O. Box 35286, Amman-Jordan. Deadline is March 17, 1994.

CONDOLENCES

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times mourn the passing of Rashed Shahin

uncle of their colleague and friend Mariam M. Shahin
May his soul rest in peace.

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Freedom continues to elude East European press long after communism

By Sandra Lacut
Agence France Presse

VIENNA — Despite the collapse of Communist rule, press freedom remains elusive across Eastern Europe where governments are taking advantage of lingering economic hardships to tighten their grip on media organisations.

"Attempts to control the media are evident in Central Europe, but also in the Balkans, the Baltic states and the republics of the former Soviet Union, under the cover of the real economic difficulties facing the former Communist countries," said Johanna Fritz, director of the Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI).

"The situation exceeds the bounds of tolerance in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and in Serbia, where the state controls all media and production facilities and where economic difficulties are such that the existence of the press is threatened," he added.

In 1993, 290 newspapers and 265 magazines, out of a total of 2,264 registered in 1992, were shut down in Ukraine.

Mr. Fritz quoted an unnamed Ukrainian journalist as saying that "our country will

soon boast a law on the press but the press will no longer exist." This statement, Mr. Fritz added, "might apply to many former Communist countries," such as Albania, Croatia, Macedonia and Russia, "where while officially recognising freedom of expression, the authorities are not prepared to give up their control over television and the press."

In Russia, President Boris Yeltsin reasserted control over the state television and news agencies following frequent television appearances by ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky on the eve of the December elections.

But "the economic threat is even greater than the political one. Inflation may bring an end to state subsidies without which many dailies will disappear," said Mr. Fritz.

"Some (papers) no longer publish because of poor distribution, which is virtually exclusively in the hands of the state. The current legislation discourages foreign investors, whose presence in Eastern Europe has played a key role in improving press freedom."

In the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovenia, the media are doing better economically thanks to the ac-

NATO Bosnia commander rose from recruit to admiral

By Edith M. Lederer
Associated Press

LONDON — Adm. Jeremy Boorda, the NATO commander in charge of all operations in former Yugoslavia, is the first sailor in the U.S. navy to climb from the lowest enlisted rank to four-star admiral.

"It says something about our country — that people can work hard and do well and be recognised for it," said the 55-year-old grandson of Ukrainian Jewish immigrants.

Adm. Boorda dropped out of high school, tutored about his health and joined the navy when he was 17 because of family problems. Being an officer, let alone an admiral, wasn't even a dream when he enlisted in 1956.

Now, he's being touted to be the next chief of naval operations, to succeed Adm. Frank B. Kelso, who announced this week that he will retire in April.

Since receiving his fourth star in 1991, Adm. Boorda has been commander-in-chief of U.S. naval forces in Europe and commander of NATO forces in Southern Europe — a job that puts him in charge of any NATO airstrikes around Sarajevo if the warring parties don't pull back their artillery by Sunday night's deadline.

As U.S. navy commander, based in London, he is responsible for 28,000 American sailors from Norway to Africa to South Africa to Israel. It is the NATO job in Naples, Italy, where he is now in charge of about 12,500 allied forces, that has put him in the spotlight.

Within six years, Adm.

Boorda reached the rank of petty officer first class, serving primarily in naval aviation. In 1962, he was selected for officer candidate school. His first sea tour as an officer was off Vietnam.

In 1966, as a lieutenant, he got his first command — the USS Parrot, a coastal minesweeper with a crew of 43 and four officers. It remains his favourite command.

"I didn't know what I didn't know so I wasn't scared," he said. "I was the days before people had computers, so they couldn't send you a lot of messages We would go do our little job and it was great."

Yemeni leaders leave for home

(Continued from page 1) now move to put its provisions into force.

Mr. Alawi was speaking before leaving for home after attending the signing ceremony as a representative of Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman.

Oman and Jordan are working towards ensuring that the Yemeni people achieve their aspiration and reconciliation.

Mr. Ben Alawi said: "He really taught me that succeeding was something special and I worked my tail off," Adm. Boorda said.

During his first year in the navy, he married Bertie Moran of Norman, Okla., whom he met in school following boot camp in Oklahoma. Their first child, David, was born physically handicapped.

He once said this made him grow up very fast.

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U.S. tries to enlist Europe in Japan offensive

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is probing a new front after failing to win its way with Tokyo on trade, urging Europe to join in an allied market-opening offensive.

Officials say the 12-nation European Union (EU) is now mulling a response at its Belgian headquarters after being approached by U.S. officials for help in recent days.

"The Americans are putting out feelers and have already made contact in Brussels. They have told us they would dearly like to work more closely and be unified on the Japan question," said one British official.

"We share the objectives, it's the means that make us uneasy."

The new U.S. tactic follows this month's failure to strike a bilateral trade deal with Japan.

But while the Europeans and Americans are united in their belief that Japan must open its doors to more foreign goods, they part ways over tactics.

President Bill Clinton is pushing a results-oriented

strategy that would use indicators to gauge progress in cutting Japan's \$131 billion trade surplus. Officials insist the benefits would be shared by all. Europe included, and have stressed throughout the drive that Japan is an outlier among all the big industrial powers, not just vis-a-vis America.

Japan rejects the aggressive U.S. approach as typical Washington bullying that amounts to government-managed trade.

The Europeans too are leery that the U.S. stance will lead to market quotas for American goods: An outcome that flies in the face of internationally accepted free-trade principles.

"One country with the biggest market in the world should not dominate the agenda to this extent," said the British official. "The Americans clearly want Europe to put pressure on Japan but it would be much easier to do so if we knew the U.S. was going to abide by the multilateral approach."

The European Union made a tentative move Thursday to step between Japan and the United States in their ongoing trade war, suggesting the three powers might seek a joint solution.

"It may be that the right course now is to trilateralise the whole process, for the Japanese, the Europeans and the Americans collectively to get together," EU Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan said in Brussels.

"If we pool our ideas... it may be that we can find a way forward."

Tea for the three is not exactly what America has in mind.

Instead officials envision a tight Transatlantic alliance that could squeeze the sort of concessions out of Tokyo that Washington's lone-dog approach failed to pull off.

"Background pressure" is all that is envisioned for now, although officials refuse to rule out a more formal alliance.

Brussels has been more than happy in the past to let Amer-

ica do all the spade work on such matters while it shares the benefits, but this time the U.S. spade isn't working.

What is more, Europe's economy is crippled by unemployment and could badly do with a quick shot of export-led growth.

Like Washington — which runs a deficit with Japan of close to \$60 billion — Europe is clocking up ever-growing shortfalls with Japan, totalling some \$40 billion a year.

Brussels has its reservations about the two-pronged offensive but is still mulling the U.S. entreaty, officials said, adding that any extra pressure would help, as would a stronger joint GATT forum.

The United States has been quarreling with Japan about a handful of tariff cuts at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and is counting on the Europeans for support in pressing Japan to open its financial services sector.

"There is a shared concern about Japan's trade imbalance but it isn't a matter of plotting and ganging up against the Japanese. It's a matter of multilateralising this problem and trying to deal with it," said a European official.

"Brittan has put out ideas.

(U.S. Trade Representative Mickey) Kantor has put out ideas. It's too early to tell yet what will happen," said the official.

And experts are divided about the use of such an alliance.

Some officials say the Europeans have from the start supported the tenacious U.S. effort to tackle Japan. Others say past U.S.-European attempts to close ranks all floundered.

"It has its advantages: It's not bilateral and it ratchets up the pressure. But the downside is just as obvious: It would be perceived as a clear case of the round eyes ganging up on the Asians," said Julius Katz, a former U.S. trade negotiator.

COTONOU (R) — West African labour unions, fighting to cushion workers from the impact of a 50 per cent devaluation, ordered members Monday to prepare for action in Benin and urged strikes in Gabon.

In Senegal, police were still holding opposition leaders after a bloody protest last week caused at least partly by fallout from the January devaluation.

Benin's umbrella Interunion Crisis Committee said that its demands for workers to be compensated for spiralling prices caused by last month's devaluation were met by what it called government stalling.

"Despite the (committee's) goodwill and the concrete and reasonable proposals it has made to the government... negotiations have reached a deadlock," a committee statement said Monday.

It did not directly call for strikes but said union members

should "mobilise for prompt and decisive action to persuade the government to meet their demands."

The committee said its request for wages to be at least partly linked to inflation had met "dictatorial" government offers of tax rebates, rises in pensions and social benefits and payment of outstanding wage arrears to public sector employees.

Since the 13 Central and West African members of the CFA franc zone devalued their common CFA currency by 50 per cent on Jan. 12, prices have soared throughout the zone, some more than doubling.

In Gabon, witnesses said union and opposition calls for an open-ended, general strike from Monday apparently met little initial response.

One resident of the capital, Libreville, told Reuters by telephone there were some protest marches against the effects of devaluation but most people appeared to be working as usual.

Neighbouring Congo, where the price of pharmaceutical products had soared since devaluation, capped the cost of 100 essential medicines Mon-

day.

A course of drugs for malaria, the country's biggest killer, was pegged at 2,670 CFA (\$4.58) from an old price of 1,720 (\$2.85) after peaking at 3,155 (\$5.41), an official said.

He added that a government committee would by the end of the week announce maximum prices for bread, sugar and cement which have been on sale for up to three times pre-devaluation levels.

In Ivory Coast, the opposition daily *La Voie* newspaper cited bakery unions as saying a 50 to 60 per cent rise in bread prices was imminent unless the government introduced sub-sidies.

Although locally baked, it said, Ivorian bread was made from imported wheat, salt and yeast and its price would have to reflect the foreign-currency cost of ingredients.

The two Senegalese opposition leaders still being held on Monday were arrested after demonstrations last week in which six people were killed.

The protests combined Islamic and secular opposition to the socialist government with dissatisfaction fanned by devaluation.

African workers restive after devaluation of CFA

China vows to unionise foreign enterprises

BEIJING (R) — China's government-controlled union has vowed to organise workers at foreign-funded companies to cope with a growing number of safety violations, the China Daily said Monday.

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions' goal is to have unions in more than half of the foreign-invested enterprises by the end of this year, the newspaper said.

Officials estimate only about one quarter have unions now.

"Over the past few years, the foreign investment boom has given rise to more labour disputes in foreign-funded firms," the China Daily said. "Disputes usually centre on ambiguous contracts, working hours, low pay and poor worker safety conditions."

Last year, the newspaper

said, a total of 27 to 200 employees in a hardware factory in China's showcase Shenzhen special economic zone lost their fingers in unsafe machinery, some on their first day of work.

At another factory in the booming southern province of Guangdong, workers went on strike after they were forced to work two months without a day of rest.

Local authorities in Guangdong, which suffered several horrific fires at labour-intensive factories last year, will also hit companies hard in their pocket books if they ignore fire safety rules, it reported.

It quoted union officials as saying that the purpose of organising workers was to

solve problems, not start strikes.

"We do not advocate strikes since they hurt both the factory and workers," Tian Yukun, a union official, told the newspaper.

"Our tasks in foreign-invested enterprises are first to implement the (economic) opening up policy, second to safeguard workers' legitimate rights," he said.

Guangdong, which had two of China's most serious fires last year in the Shenzhen economic zone, will fine companies heavily if their disregard of fire safety rules causes a disaster, the China Daily said.

Companies found violating codes will be fined between one and five per cent of the losses they incur in a blaze.

ZURICH (R) — Swiss voters Sunday approved a controversial proposal to protect the Alps by banning foreign trucks from crossing the country by road by the year 2004.

The Alp initiative, which now becomes law after being approved in a referendum, also bans the construction of new roads if they are intended to boost transit capacity.

It aims to preserve the Alps from pollution by freight trucks that roar across the country and requires that they be hauled across Switzerland by rail in 10 years' time.

About 80 per cent of freight crossing Switzerland already travels by train, either in rail cars or in the trucks loaded onto rail wagons.

The vote was a slap in the face for the Swiss government's policy towards Europe, coming in the first test of its push for closer ties since Swiss voters rejected membership of the European Economic Area (EEA) market in December 1992.

The ban will greatly hamper Swiss negotiators at crucial bi-lateral talks with the European

Union (EU) on greater access to each other's markets due to start later this year.

Just under 52 per cent of voters and a clear majority of Switzerland's 25 cantons approved the initiative, proposed in 1990 by a group of environmentalists. Some 40 per cent of the electorate took part in the referendum.

Under Switzerland's system of direct democracy, new laws can be put forward for referendum by the collection of at least 100,000 signatures of supporters.

At a news conference in Berne soon after results were in, Transport Minister Adolf Ogi said the government would respect the electorate's wishes but warned talks with the EU on market liberalisation would now be more difficult.

"This result will certainly not make the bilateral negotiations with the European Union any easier," he said.

"It will once again be a matter of trying to awake the Swiss position," he added.

In the talks, which are aimed at negotiating the same market

liberalisation enjoyed by other EEA members, the Swiss hope to win vital access to the huge European market for their hauliers and the national airline, Swissair.

Switzerland, which lies across the shortest route between northern Europe and Italy, handles some 25 million tonnes of transit freight a year.

Demand on Swiss motorways is expected to surge dramatically. Official Swiss forecasts see road traffic in the EU doubling over the next 20 to 30 years and transit traffic through Switzerland growing 50 per cent.

The crux of the debate behind the Alp initiative is a 1992 Swiss-EU transit accord which guarantees EU trucks weighing less than 28 tonnes unlimited transit rights on weekdays but curbs the number of 40-tonne juggernauts.

In return, Berne agreed to embark on a huge tunnel project to boost trans-Switzerland rail transport capacity to 70 million tonnes a year by around 2010 and to expand existing rail transit facilities for trucks.

ANA to cut 1,500 jobs

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's All Nippon Airways Ltd. (ANA) has announced 1,500 job cuts as part of a restructuring programme aimed at boosting operating profits by 26 billion yen (\$240 million) in the coming year.

President Seiji Fukatsu said ANA, which announced a joint aircraft maintenance agreement with rival Japan Airlines Co. Ltd. (JAL), was facing its "toughest challenge" since it was founded four decades ago.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1994

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: New products come to your attention now that you won't want to ignore. Study them seriously and they work out to your advantage. Avoid a troublemaker who always turns up at the wrong time.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact an influential person who can give you support for a fine project you have in mind. Take time for fun later in the day for your happiness.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your ideas are working like magic early in the day so be more aggressive than in the past. Relax at home tonight and you will feel better tomorrow.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make sure you carry through with promises to others and gain goodwill. Your mate becomes more affectionate as the day passes.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) You are thinking in a most practical vein and can handle a difficult problem now. Express happiness with a loved one.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take time to learn what is expected of you by associates and try to please them for possible advancement in your career.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at work ahead of you and gain fine benefits by being cooperative with others. Good organizational work is the key to success now.

FISCHES: (February 20 to March 20) A good friend who is wise can tell you how to solve certain problems, so listen carefully. Relax and be content in the evening.

THE Daily Crossword

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S. Africa appeals to rightists over poll terms; 34 die in violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government and the ANC appealed to rightists Monday to accept the transition to democracy and defuse tensions after at least 34 people died in weekend violence.

The two main political power blocs began separate talks in Johannesburg and Pretoria on terms for settling the constitutional dispute in which conservative groups are boycotting the country's first all-race election on April 26-28.

"We urge them to do South Africa a favour and not to plunge this country into a crisis," chief ANC negotiator Cyril Ramaphosa said at the start of the Johannesburg meeting.

Police reported at least 34 deaths in political and factional violence over the weekend, including the massacre of 15 African National Congress (ANC) supporters preparing for a voter-education meeting in the rural town of Creighton. Other deaths followed a rally in Natal province, homeland of the Zulus, addressed by conservative Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

At least six people died, many were injured and 24 houses were burned down in clashes around Johannesburg, police said.

Government Minister Roelf Meyer urged the Freedom Alliance of black and white parties boycotting the election to accept a package of compromise proposals being hammered out with the ANC at a meeting of the multi-party

negotiating council.

"The government wants to plead with the leaders of the alliance to accept these proposals as they are. Let all South Africans participate in the democratic process," he said.

Alliance Chairman Rowan Cronje told Reuters the new deadline for parties to join the election race was final.

Meanwhile, the black Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) threatened Sunday to renew its guerrilla war against white domination if South Africa's land is not returned to blacks.

The independent Human Rights Commission says violence in South Africa has killed 14,000 people since February 1990, when President F.W. De Klerk started dismantling apartheid.

A bomb damaged an apartment building occupied by black and white residents in central Pietermaritzburg early Monday, but police said no one was hurt in the blast.

Police Colonel Martin Leonard told reporters the damage was caused by an explosive device other than a hand-grenade, but said police had not yet identified the type of explosive.

He repeated his demand for key constitutional concessions including regional autonomy and recognition of the Zulu monarchy as his price for participation in the poll.

The multi-party negotiating council dominated by the ANC and the government met on the outskirts of Johannesburg to formalise constitutional amendments offered last week.

Negotiators agreed to open registration for the election until March 7 and to approve separate ballots for national and regional governments.

They also proposed to create a framework for a so-called Afrikaner Volkstaat (homeland) Council to represent whites seeking self-determination in a separate homeland.

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wounded in clashes as the Inkatha crowd headed home from the rally through territory controlled by the ANC.

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"If we must go back to the bush to reclaim our land then that is what we will do," he said.

The PAC, which fought white rule with the slogan "one settler, one bullet," recently suspended its armed campaign.

Opinion polls indicate that the PAC will win less than five per cent support in the April 26-28 election, which will be the first to include the five-to-one black majority.

But PAC officials insist their support exceeds the backing for African National Congress, which usually polls between 50 and 70 per cent support in opinion surveys.

The PAC, which broke away from the ANC before both parties were banned by the white government 34 years ago, said it would implement race and gender employment quotas.

At least one man was killed and another was seriously



South African government chief negotiator Rolf Meyer receives a blessing from a witch-doctor, after they slaughtered a goat and sprinkled him with its gall. Mrs. Meyer was on an election tour in Soweto (AFP photo)

N. Korea to set inspections date soon

VIENNA (R) — North Korea, under potential threat of U.N. economic sanctions, expects to set a date for inspection of its nuclear facilities after further talks with the United States this week, a U.N. official said Monday.

"We had a telex from them over the weekend saying they would have more talks with the Americans this week then set a date for inspections and issue visas," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) spokesman David Kyd said.

IAEA Director-General Hans Blix was expected to brief the nuclear watchdog agency's 35-member board of governors on the situation later Monday at IAEA Headquarters in Vienna.

The 120-member agency is responsible for applying safeguards measures to ensure no signatory of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) embarks on nuclear weapons development, as North Korea is suspected of doing.

The secretive Communist state flatly denied the charge.

But until North Korea dropped its arguments last Tuesday and agreed to inspection of seven declared nuclear sites, the IAEA board of governors was set to report it to the U.N. Security Council, raising the prospect of an embargo.

The agency had hoped that, following the accord, Pyon-

yang would issue visas to its experts by the weekend so they could leave for North Korea before the governing body met.

But no visas have been issued so far.

"Because of available flights, the earliest our inspectors can now leave for North Korea is by the middle of this week," spokesman Hans Kyd said Sunday.

Officials said last week that the board would have been more assured of North Korea's intention to play ball with the agency if inspectors were on site by the time of the board of governors meeting, but they were prepared to be patient.

IAEA experts are due to carry out tests, change film in monitoring cameras and check seals at the sites, mostly at Yongbyon, 100 kilometres north of Pyongyang.

The inspections can only

check whether any nuclear material has been diverted to non-peaceful uses. The agency's knowledge of North Korea's nuclear industry would thus be back to where it was before the row erupted 12 months ago, officials said:

The agreement does not include access to two mysterious sites, also at Yongbyon, where the United States and other Western governments suspect North Korea of pursuing a clandestine nuclear arms pro-

gramme.

Any further progress on per-

suading North Korea to allow

inspections here largely hinges

on talks between Pyongyang

and Washington.

Earlier Monday, North Korea denied it had agreed to even routine checks of its declared nuclear facilities, and warned the United States not to misrepresent last week's accord.

"This was largely directed at the United States, warning them not to over-construe the agreement," Mr. Kyd said of the hardline statement issued by the North Korean Foreign Ministry.

The statement recalled that

North Korea had threatened in 1993 to quit the NPT over demands for "special inspections" of sites it insisted were military facilities unconnected with any nuclear programme.

Any attempt to enlarge last Tuesday's accord to include the two suspect sites would be "tantamount to an attempt to drive (Pyongyang) out of the treaty," it said.

"If the United States again

put the brakes on a solution to

the nuclear issue, attaching an

unreasonable condition... or

resorting to pressure, it would be impossible to implement the

points already agreed upon be-

tween the DPRK (North Korea) and the IAEA.

Kohl's CDU seeks to steer a winning course

HAMBURG (AFP) — Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) tries this week to chart a course to ensure that the party and its leader Chancellor Helmut Kohl will be safely returned to power in October.

Eight months ahead of federal legislative elections, the CDU begins a three-day congress in this snow-bound northern port city Monday with all the signs against it.

Unemployment is at a record four million, the prospect of a major strike by industrial workers looks closer by the day, and the opinion polls have for months been favouring the Social Democrat Party (SPD) opposition.

Latest polls give the SPD 37.5 per cent, against 34 per cent for the CDU and its Bavarian

sister party. Mr. Kohl himself was credited with 26 per cent of preferences Sunday, against 35 per cent for SPD leader Rudolf Scharping, by the Forsa Social Research Institute.

But Forsa head Manfred Guellner and Mr. Kohl himself point out that twice before, in 1987 and in 1990, he came out from behind in the polls only to win in the end. The chancellor and the party have time to mobilise, and analysts say it is much too early to write them off yet.

In an opening speech to the 1,000 or so delegates, Mr. Kohl is expected to issue a call to arms to try to Scotch what he regards as a premature defeatism based only on the pundits' predictions.

Centre-piece of the congress

is a new basic programme of nearly 100 pages entitled freedom and responsibility, defining Christian Democracy in a united Germany today, which delegates are to fine-tune and adopt Tuesday and Wednesday.

It tackles such issues as European integration, and declares attachment to "free development of the individual" and an "ecological and social market economy."

For a classic mainstream party of the right, the chosen themes of debate, revolving around ideas of peace, freedom and the environment, appear to want to steal clothes from the Social Democrats, at a time when the SPD, also bent on victory on Oct. 16, appears more moderate than for years.

Chinese province warns against ethnic unrest

BEIJING (R) — Leaders in China's far-western Qinghai province have been ordered to step up vigilance against ethnic minorities following anti-Chinese Muslim riots crushed by the army last year.

The Qinghai Communist Party committee decree, reported in Qinghai Daily editions seen Monday in Beijing, was a rare admission of persistent ethnic unrest in the vast west.

Muslims and other ethnic groups in Qinghai, Xinjiang, Gansu, Ningxia and Sichuan have rioted often in recent years to oppose heavy-handed Chinese rule.

Many underground cells advocate secession, a sentiment that has grown with the rise of Islamic nationalism across Central Asia, and raised alarm in Beijing.

"All leaders and the broad masses of party members, officials and public must maintain a high degree of vigilance and clear-headed understanding," the committee said. "We must resolutely tackle and handle behaviour that destroys stability."

The Qinghai Party organ, which directs the local government, said the huge province remains at risk of instability despite the military suppression of regionwide anti-Chinese protests last year and the Oct. 7 storming by paramilitary police of Dongguan Mosque in the Qinghai capital, Xining.

victims of murder and hooliganism and sentenced to long prison terms in what one Chinese source said was a warning to Muslims that Beijing would not tolerate religious instability or insurrection.

Eighteen other Muslims re-

ceived shorter prison terms.

Xinhua dismissed the religious fuel as nothing more than gang fighting and said 49 people had been killed since the feud erupted in May, 1992.

Chinese sources said more than 30 Muslims arrested after the Dongguan assault were still awaiting trial but that about 40 escaped, including a prominent Muslim leader.

The officials, from the Tibet Justice Bureau and the Reform-Through-Labour (prison) Administration, confirmed by telephone a report by the human-rights monitoring group Tibet Information Network (TIN).

The report said the nuns had their sentences increased for singing the pro-independence song on a tape which was then secretly circulated in the Himalayan region.

Confirmation of the stiff punishment — one sentence was increased to 17 years — comes as Beijing is under intense Western pressure for its human rights record.

China last month freed two

Tibetan political prisoners in a

move described by the United

<p

8 JBF board members quit

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Most board members of the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Monday announced their joint resignation after irreconcilable differences that seemed to have plagued their work in the last couple of months.

"From the defensive standpoint we pretty much accomplished what we had to do and it was just a great win for us," said New York coach Pat Riley.

After a heated regular session Monday afternoon, eight out of 11 board members signed a mass resignation that would be presented to Minister of Youth Abdullah Oweidat.

"We seemed to have reached a dead end after irreconcilable differences that we worked hard to overcome, but to no avail," JBF Vice-President Samir Janakat told the Jordan Times.

"We therefore decided to give the minister a fresh chance to appoint a new board that will hopefully better serve the game," he said.

According to informed sources, the "irreconcilable differences" were mainly between JBF President Isam Ammar and spokesman Fa'eq Abu Halimeh.

The latest row erupted after Ammar stepped down, JBF regulations allowed Al Husen and Al Husen clubs to register their players after the expiry of the official permitted time during which all clubs registered their players for competitions they would take part in during the upcoming season. The JBF's troubles seem to have begun after the national team's participation in the Asian championships in which the team returned home after a series of disappointing results.

Preparations for the championships including travel expenses to Indonesia had cost the cash-strapped federation

Knicks' defence stifles Bulls

NEW YORK (R) — Patrick Ewing scored 20 points and got 18 rebounds as the New York Knicks clamped down the defense on the Chicago Bulls for an 86-68 victory late Sunday.

The 68 points represented a season-low for the Bulls and the lowest by a New York opponent since the Knicks held Indiana to 64 Dec. 10, 1985.

"From the defensive standpoint we pretty much accomplished what we had to do and it was just a great win for us," said New York coach Pat Riley.

John Starks added 16 points for the Knicks, who avenged a 98-80 loss in December to Chicago.

"We played aggressively at the defensive end and that made the offense a lot easier to come down and execute," said Starks.

The New York bench outscored Chicago's 33-15 as Derek Harper scored 13, Anthony Mason 11 and Hubert Davis 9.

Scottie Pippen scored 25 and B.J. Armstrong 15 for the Bulls, who lost three straight since the All-Star break, tying a season high.

In Denver, Mahmoud Abdul Rauf had 19 points and Reggie Williams 18 to rally the Nuggets past the Atlanta Hawks 97-92.

The Nuggets, who trailed by as many as seven in the third, outscored the Hawks 14-3 in the final 4:19 of the game to win their third straight and ninth in their last 14 games.

The loss by Atlanta (35-16) and the Knicks' win over Chicago (34-16) left New York (36-15) with the best record in the eastern conference.

At Indiana, Derrick McKey scored 27 points to guide the Pacers to a 101-95 victory over his former team, the Seattle SuperSonics.

McKey, traded before the season for Detlef Schrempf, was 7-for-11 from the field and 13-of-13 from the line. He added 9 rebounds and 5 assists. Schrempf was held to 6 points.

The Pacers (25-24) have won nine of their last 10 and went over the .500 mark for the first time this season.

In Charlotte, Mark Price scored 22 points, including four in the final 1:02 of overtime, to lift the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 105-101 victory over the Hornets.

Bobby Phills led the Cavs with 23 points.

At New Jersey, Benoit Benjamin scored 18 points on 9-for-9 shooting and added 10 rebounds in just three quarters to carry the Nets to their fifth straight victory, a 122-101 thrashing of the Washington Bullets.

The Nets have won 13 of their last 17 while the Bullets have lost nine of their last 11.

New Jersey's Armon Gilliam led all scorers with 24 points.

In Milwaukee, Shaquille O'Neal scored 38 points and pulled down 14 rebounds as the Orlando Magic beat the Bucks 109-104.

Dennis Scott added 18 points and Nick Anderson contributed 15 for the Magic, who



Eric Leckner of the Philadelphia 76ers (left) and George Lynch of the Los Angeles Lakers battle for a rebound during their match. The Lakers defeated the Sixers 107-95 (AP photo)

earned their fourth straight win.

Vin Baker and Todd Day each scored 20 points for the Bucks, who have lost three of their last four games.

At Los Angeles, Sedale Threatt poured in 21 points to pace the Lakers to a 107-95 triumph over the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Lakers, who won for the first time in four games, extended their great western forum win streak against the Sixers to 10 games.

In Portland, Clifford Robinson scored 24 points and Rod Strickland added 18 to lift the Trail Blazers to a 102-93 win over the Boston Celtics.

Boston has lost eight straight for the first time since 1979. Portland had not beaten Boston since Nov. 10, 1991.

Dino Radja scored 24 points and Dee Brown had 20 to lead the Celtics, who had a 10-2 run to close the game that made the final score appear respectable.

Russia's Egorova gains 6th career gold; Wiberg wins Sweden's 1st

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — A record-tying sixth gold medal did not dull the thrill of Olympic triumph for Lyubov Egorova, and Pernilla Wiberg raised Sweden from the depths of despair by winning gold on the Alpine slopes Monday.

On the 10th day of the games, Austria's Emese Hunyadi, silver medalist in the 3,000, upset the favorite in the women's 1,500-metre speedskating race.

With six days left to compete, Russia had a total of 17 medals, followed by Norway with 16 and Italy with 14.

"It feels good to be the best," Egorova, Russia's jubilant "ice bird," said after anchoring her team to victory in the women's 20-kilometer cross-country skiing relay.

The 27-year-old Egorova thus became the second triple gold medalist of the 17th Winter Olympics, joining Norwegian speedskater medalist Johann Olav Koss. Adding the three Albertville golds to the three she won here, Egorova tied the record haul of six won by Soviet speedskater Lydia Skoblikova at the 1960 and 1964 games.

Egorova has now won gold or silver in all nine Olympic races in which she had skated in the last two years.

Wiberg gave Sweden its first medal of the 17th winter games by demonstrating her slalom wizardry and winning the two-day women's combined.

"I know it's the first gold medal for Sweden, and I hope this will improve the team's morale and bring us other medals," Wiberg said.

The combined event also restored a shred of honour to the Swiss Alpine ski team, which had not medaled in the first nine days of the Lillehammer Games. Vreni Schneider, the overall World Cup leader, won silver behind Wiberg.

At Hamar's speedskating arena, Hunyadi thwarted the hopes of Germany's Gundula Niemann to rebound from a fall in the 3,000 and win her third career gold medal. Niemann, double gold medalist at Albertville, was further frustrated in Monday's 1,500 when Russia's Svetlana Fedotikina, knocked her from second into third place late in the competition. Niemann had to settle for bronze.

Russia clocked 57 minutes, 12.5 seconds for the gold. Norway took the silver 30.1 seconds behind, and Italy, paced by a strong anchor performance by Stefania Belmondo, clinched the bronze, 11:30.1 behind.

Egorova is entered in two more races here and has a chance to overtake the all-time medal winner — Raisa Smetanova, a cross-country skier who competed for the Soviet Union and the unified team. Smetanova's 10 career medals included four golds. Egorova has three silvers in addition to the six golds.

At the Hafjell slalom course, Sweden's Wiberg moved from fifth after Sunday's downhill portion and withstood a challenge by Schneider in Monday's second slalom run to win by just .13 of a second. Her aggregate time was 3 minutes, 5.15 second for the slalom and downhill.

Slovakia's Alenka Dovian won the combined bronze medal.

Katja Seizinger of Germany, the downhill gold medalist and leader after Sunday's combined downhill, straddled a blue police halfway down the 59-gate Hafjell course and was disqualified.

"I knew I didn't have much of a chance in slalom," Seizinger said. "It's 50-50 that I miss a gate, so I took some risks... I was surprised with my slalom performance for as long as it lasted."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marlin wins Daytona 500 by car length

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (R) — Sterling Marlin held off Ernie Irvan to win the Daytona 500 motor race Sunday. Marlin's Chevrolet outdistanced Irvan's Ford by a car length. Terry Labonte and Jeff Gordon, both in Chevrolets, finished third and fourth. Marlin, who earned 253,575, covered the 200 laps around the 2.5 mile (four km) Daytona International Speedway in three hours, 11 minutes, 10 seconds. A speed of 156.931 mph (252.549 kph).

Gullit set for Dutch comeback

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Soccer star Ruud Gullit is set to make his peace with Dutch coach Dick Advocaat — just in time for the World Cup. Advocaat has announced that Gullit was ready to return to the Dutch side May 23. He added that Gullit, who plays for Italian club Sampdoria, has agreed to return without any pre-conditions. Gullit, aged 31, fell out with Advocaat in June 1993 and quit international football. Holland qualified without him but Gullit vowed he would only return if Johan Cruyff took control of Holland's World Cup campaign. That looked sure to happen until Barcelona manager Cruyff and the Dutch Football Federation were involved in a clash over money and Cruyff, who had been expected to replace Advocaat, withdrew his World Cup candidacy. Gullit has won 64 caps for Holland since 1981 and scored 17 goals. He had previously retired from international football in September 1992 after criticising the team's style of play but had returned after a four-month absence.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHANIF
& TAHAN HIRSCH
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AN IMPOSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
A K 6
J 3
A J 8 7 4
K 6
WEST
Q J 10 8 7 2 5 5 3
A Q 10 9 7 6 8 4 2
9
K Q 10 5
Void
SOUTH
A 4
K 5
6 3 2
A Q 10 9 8 7 3

The bidding: South-West-North-East
3 4 4 5 Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦ "Quite remarkable," enthused the bids. "It was a bit of a shocker but declarer found an elegant solution. The key was in allowing West's queen of spades to win the first trick."

West shifted to a diamond, but declarer was equal to the task. Dummy's ace of diamonds won the trick and declarer discarded two diamonds from hand. The ace and king of clubs were cashed. A diamond ruff was ruffed high, the queen of clubs was overtaken with the king and another diamond was ruffed high. The ten of clubs to the jack was followed by another diamond ruff, setting up a long card. The three of clubs to the six drew the last enemy ruff while providing the entry to dummy to discard a heart on the established diamond. Making five odd!

After the normal lead of the queen of spades, declarer could count 10 tricks — two diamonds and seven clubs. Since the ace of hearts was certainly with West, his only hope for an 11th trick was to set up a diamond ruff. The problem was to keep East off play while accomplishing that, since the moment East gained the lead a heart shift would be declarer's demise.

Top challengers Juventus were held to a 1-1 away draw against Torino after German Andreas Moeller was sent off just after the half hour following two bookings. It did not stop Juventus' ten men taking the lead through a fine free-kick from European 'Footballer of the Year' Roberto Baggio in the 53rd minute. Daniel

Daniele Massaro scored AC Milan's goal on the stroke of half-time to clinch the serie a leaders' away win at Lazio. A 70,000 crowd turned out to see England international Paul Gascoigne dominate in midfield but he was later to join three Milan players in the Sampdoria goals.

In Spain Deportivo felt the pressure after Saturday wins by both Real Madrid and Barcelona. But they came away with both points from Real Sociedad Sunday thanks to a 2nd minute goal by Ribera.

Barcelona, eliminated from the Spanish Cup by second division Betis and beaten in their last two league matches, took their frustration out on visiting Osasuna by going on a scoring spree. Johan Cruyff's men slammed eight goals past a side which had two men ordered off at half-time — Romario scoring a hat-trick.

Real Madrid also won their

EUROPEAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

Leaders hold their own as rivals apply pressure

PARIS (AFP) — The leaders of the top European leagues resisted pressure from their rivals at the weekend — single goal victories appearing to be the order of the day.

Italian leaders AC Milan, Spanish pace-setters Deportivo la Coruna, Portugal's top side Benfica and MSV Duisburg of Germany — all topped their divisions after 1-0 wins.

Meanwhile in France, runaway top club Paris St. Germain didn't score at all.

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Real Madrid also won their

home clash in the derby against Atletico — Morales snatching a winner seven minutes from time.

A last-minute goal from Vitor Peneira gave Benfica their win over Beira Mar and kept them three points clear of rivals sporting in the Portuguese first division.

Sporting beat Belenenses 3-0 away Saturday.

MSV Duisburg, promoted at the end of last season, defeated Werder Bremen — courtesy of a 76th minute goal from Peter Koeze. They now have 27 points, while Bayern Munich and Kaiserslautern, who both scored away wins, have 26.

Former leaders Eintracht Frankfurt and second-placed Bayer Leverkusen both slumped to surprise defeats.

In France, Marseille failed to cash-in on Paris St. Germain's goalless draw against Lyon Saturday. Bernard Tapie's side stayed seven points adrift in the title chase after being beaten 1-0 at Bordeaux. A header from Santos after just nine minutes did the damage to Marseille's hopes in a bruising match in which

seven players were booked.

Paris Saint Germain extended their unbeaten run to 22 games — but were left kicking themselves after dropping a crucial home point. Unbeaten at home all season but without suspended international defender Alain Roche, PSG produced a colourless performance.

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Militants renew warning to Egyptians to withdraw funds

CAIRO (AP) — A militant group has issued a "final warning" for bank depositors to withdraw their money and urged foreigners not to side with Egypt's "dictator, fascist" government.

The messages came in a claim of responsibility sent Sunday by the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah to western news agencies for a killing earlier in the day of a plainclothes policeman in southern Egypt.

"We remind, for the last time, all clients of interest banks that the deadline for them to settle their accounts expires in two days," the group said in its faxed message. It warned that people would "regret" keeping their money in banks.

The group's first warning to withdraw money early this month was based on Islam's prohibition against charging interest. Since then, suspected militants placed homemade bombs outside at least four banks in Cairo. Two went off but caused little damage.

The fax also warned tourists and foreign investors to "remain neutral and not to side with the dictator, fascist system."

"We tell them frankly: the stand you are taking is opposed to the Islamic movement and its just rights, and is not in your interest," the warning said. Earlier, the group warned tourists and foreign investors to leave Egypt to avoid getting caught in the violence.

Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah has claimed responsibility for most attacks on police officers and on foreign tourists in a campaign launched two years ago to replace President Hosni Mubarak's secular government with an Islamic state.

More than 300 people have

been killed, including militants, security forces, Coptic Christians and three foreign tourists.

The group claimed responsibility for two recent attacks on foreigners. Last Saturday, four people were wounded in a shooting on a train, and a week ago a bus carrying Romanian workers was fired on. No one was hurt in that incident.

In its claim of responsibility for the policeman's killing Sunday, the Al Gamaa gave the same reason that it did for the train attack — revenge for the sentencing to death of three men convicted of attempting to assassinate Mr. Mubarak.

It said their men were "plotting to carry out the death sentence of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in fair revenge for his killing of hundreds and torture of thousands and his stand against Islam."

A military court sentenced two soldiers and a civilian to death last Wednesday for a foiled attempt to assassinate Mr. Mubarak by mining a military airport before a presidential visit in November.

The government has kept the case secret and the militants persistent reference to it is apparently meant to publicize it.

Bankers said they have not heard of a significant increase in withdrawals since the Al Gamaa issued its warning to depositors.

Mohammed Kheera, director of security at Bank Misr, said his bank stepped up security after an employee found one of the four bombs next to a telling machine. Explosive experts defused the bomb but the bomb has been on the lookout ever since.

"We have increased our own security inside the bank and that none of his depositors have withdrawn their money.

provided guards for outside the bank," Mr. Kheera told Reuters.

He dismissed the threat of an escalation in the Gamaa campaign as "hot air."

The Gamaa said it planted the Bank Misr bomb and two others on the same day outside Bank Ahli and a branch of the Central Bank of Egypt because the banks were "usurious monuments which have become huge treasures for the loot plundered by senior officials from the toiling masses."

Most Egyptian banks offer interest but there are also Islamic banks that treat depositors as shareholders in their investments. The chief mufti of Egypt has given a fatwa (legal ruling) approving some forms of bank interest.

The fourth bomb was outside the Alexandria Kuwait Bank on Feb. 15. It broke the windows of the bank and of two cars parked nearby but again caused no casualties.

The bomb was planted "to make owners of Arab and foreign usurious banks understand that they are targets as much as Egyptian banks and that the deadline also applies to them," the Gamaa said.

Omar Mohanna, assistant general manager of Misr Bank Development, brushed off the warning.

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He said his bank has not enforced any policy changes since the militant warning and that none of his depositors have withdrawn their money.

Police storming ends Pakistan hijack drama

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Commandos stormed the Afghan embassy Monday night freeing five schoolboys and killing three Afghan gunmen who had held them hostage for nearly 40 hours.

A loud explosion was heard followed by gunfire inside the building, witnesses said.

"It was a successful operation," said Interior Secretary Jamshed Burki.

Red-beret commandos in bullet-proof vests had earlier taken up positions on the rooftop of the two-storey Afghan embassy. Soldiers were deployed around the compound.

The gunmen were demanding food for their war-ravaged homeland and \$5 million.

The drama began on Sunday when the gunmen hijacked a busload of schoolchildren from the northeastern city of Peshawar, 200 kilometres away and drove them to Islamabad.

Interior Minister Nasruallah Baba was called on board and won the release of 55 youngest boys, some no older than five. Eight boys were released earlier on Monday.

The bus then drove to the nearby Afghan embassy. Shortly after it arrived, six women teachers were set free. The gunmen and the remaining

hostages then went inside the embassy.

Numerous Pakistani government officials, policemen and military officers walked in and out of the embassy Monday and held periodic talks with the kidnappers, but there were no breakthroughs. Pakistan had promised food but refused to give any money.

The gunmen said they did not belong to any of the feuding Afghan factions, but wanted to draw attention to the suffering of Kabul residents.

In addition to food and money, the kidnappers demanded that Pakistan reopen its border to Afghan refugees.

Pakistan, home to 1.5 million Afghan refugees, last month closed the border to new refugees after heavy fighting erupted in Kabul on Jan. 1.

No major food deliveries are expected in Kabul any time soon because the main road into Kabul has been blockaded by the forces of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who is trying to out President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Mr. Hekmatyar has condemned the kidnapping but has refused to lift the blockade, according to Pakistan's state-run news agency.

Iraq rejects Kuwaiti compensation for land

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq on Monday refused to take \$285,000 that Kuwait decided to pay as compensation to Iraqis who lost property along the redrawn border with Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

The agency quoted an official source as saying "Iraqi citizens who were forced to leave their lands and properties near the Kuwaiti-Iraq borders reject the compensation on these lands and properties."

The source was commenting on a statement issued Sunday by the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission, which patrols the frontiers, that the sum of 71.5 million Iraqi dinars (\$285,000) will go into a special fund to compensate Iraqi property owners.

He added: "Those citizens who were forced to leave their lands and properties informed the secretary general of the United Nations and president of the Security Council in letters sent to them in March and October last year of their refusal of the reparations."

The spokesman called the Kuwaiti offer "worthless." The new border demarcated

Sudanese rebels say government pushed back

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Southern Sudanese rebels said on Monday that they had dislodged government troops from their positions on a key battlefield weeks after Khartoum launched an offensive.

"Government troops have been pushed back with a lot of casualties," Justin Yac of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) told Reuters in Nairobi.

Aid organizations working in southern Sudan said that the sound of fighting could be heard in the area of Kit, south of the government-held southern capital of Juba, over the weekend.

There were also unconfirmed reports of bombing raids by government aircraft against rebel positions around Kit and the SPLA-held village of Arapi in the Eastern Equatoria province on Friday and Saturday.

Mr. Yac said that aircraft had bombed rebels counter-attacking against Khartoum soldiers around the village of Amadi in Western Equatoria and against Mundri village, which the SPLA retook after government forces briefly overran it last week.

Both warring sides in Sudan's civil war often lie about their military operations. Khartoum flatly denies it launched any kind of attack this month. Details are sketchy because aid workers have evacuated from much of the south.

Aid workers said government forces appeared to have been halted in their tracks after launching what Washington termed the biggest offensive by Khartoum for years in the south.

Tens of thousands of civilians have fled from flashpoints U.S. ambassador to Khartoum Donald Peterson toured rebel areas last week and on Saturday he blamed the uprooting of the civilians mainly on government attacks.

According to the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, about 1,000 farmers are still growing tomatoes, cucumber and clover on 96 farms in Abdali, a town now on the Kuwaiti side, adjacent to Umm Qasr.

In December, the United Nations supervised the repatriation of 177 Iraqi families from Umm Qasr.

Last year, the border area was the scene of several confrontations between Iraqi and Kuwaiti soldiers and a march across the border by hundred of Iraqis protesting Kuwaiti's construction of protective trench.

Hopes for a new African peace initiative were dashed last week when Sudan's military president, Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, scrapped talks with Kenyan leader Daniel Arap Moi in Nairobi.

Yemeni leader leaves

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday saw off Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, who on Sunday signed a reconciliation and reform accord to end a six-month-old political crisis along with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and 35 other Yemeni leaders (Petra photo)



Saudis launch fund-raising for Jerusalem; Olmert dismisses move as propaganda

Khatib: Funds welcome but have to come through Jordan

Combined agency dispatches

SAUDI ARABIA has launched a campaign to raise funds for the renovation of Islamic holy shrines in occupied Jerusalem, drawing an Israeli response that the Jewish state reserved the right to have the final say in any renovation projects in the holy city.

The Saudi campaign to raise funds was reported by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), which said King Fahd had issued instructions to Prince Salman, the emir of Riyadh, to lead a drive through all regions in the kingdom for donations.

That will be channelled to rehabilitate and salvage the Islamic shrines in Holy Jerusalem.

Prince Salman will be issuing an appeal to citizens and expatriates to donate funds "to help save the shrines from the threat of ruin as a result of the Israeli measures aimed at obliterating the identity of Arab and Islamic Jerusalem."

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